

“Beautifully Broken – Redeemed & Remembered”

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By Rebecca Stacey

morality. While the Israelites received the Ten Commandments and were being shaped by God’s covenant, the Canaanites lived without the truth of the living God to guide them.

This culture didn’t speak to Rahab’s heart, but something else did—stories of the God of Israel! As she heard about His mighty acts and His faithfulness, something within her stirred. Her faith began to take root. She alone chose to do what others didn’t, to put her trust in the God she had only heard about! She risked everything to align herself with Him and His people. That choice, that faith, changed *everything*.

Rahab didn’t just survive the fall of Jericho—she found a new identity and a new purpose. She became part of God’s covenant family!

According to Matthew’s genealogy, Rahab married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz, making her an ancestor of King David—and ultimately of Jesus. ***“Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab...” — Matthew 1:5***

It may seem surprising to include her name on such a sacred list, but that’s exactly the point! Her life reminds us that no one is beyond God’s reach, and no past is too broken for Him to redeem.

Her story doesn’t end there! Rahab’s name also appears again in Hebrews 11, in the "Hall of Faith": ***“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.” — Hebrews 11:31***

And James also writes of her: ***“Was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?” — James 2:25***

Rahab is both redeemed and remembered. Her story reminds us that God’s redemption doesn’t stop at the rescue. It has the power to weave into something greater—His divine plan.

Once an outsider, Rahab became part of the lineage of the Messiah. Her life proves that God’s grace has no limits and that He delights in using all who have faith, regardless of their past, for His purpose.

God’s redemption plan is Jesus. It didn’t begin in Bethlehem, and it didn’t end at the cross. Long before Jesus walked the Earth, God was already weaving His plan through the lives of ordinary people who trusted Him. And that plan continues today.

Through Jesus, we are part of something eternal. By faith, we too are redeemed and remembered. Our stories, like Rahab’s, are caught up in the great story of salvation, not because of what we’ve done, but because of who He is.

Rahab’s story encourages us to step out of our past and our brokenness. Like Rahab, we don’t have to be defined by our past. Our faith in God allows us to step into His greater plan, no matter our circumstances.

Where are you in your redemption journey? Will you trust God completely? Are you willing to step away from your past, from the walls protecting what only God can redeem? Is it time leave some things behind?

Our redemption stories are transformative when we fully surrender everything to God. His grace knows no bounds. His mercy never fails. There’s no story too far gone for Him to redeem. All you need is faith. Because when grace meets surrender, the past loses its power, and a new future begins. **Only God can write a story like that.**

Sometimes, when I hear someone’s story, my jaw drops. A string of events, including heartache, detours, and even miracles—leaves me in awe. In response, I think, “You can’t make this stuff up—only God could weave a redemption story like that.”

As believers, we have a unique twist to our stories. Our faith journeys are stories of redemption—testimonies that seem almost too good to be true. Many have said that they wouldn’t have believed their own redemption, but they are living proof of God’s grace.

No matter the journey, how many resets we’ve needed, or how deep our regret, we can trust that God has redeeming power. ***“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” — Romans 8:28***

Rahab’s life is most definitely a redemption story. Unlikely, unexpected, and unforgettable. It’s possible that Rahab was just as surprised as anyone as her life was transformed.

Rahab lived in Jericho, a prominent city of its time. To its inhabitants, surrounded by mighty walls, it was a stronghold and a thriving centre for trade. For the Israelites, Jericho wasn’t just a city—it was an obstacle that was standing between them and God’s promise.

Jericho likely covered around six acres and had approximately 1,500 citizens, although scholars debate the exact size. Regardless, it was densely packed with homes, some built into its formidable walls.

To help us picture it, imagine Jericho as similar in size to Fort Henry in Kingston.

- Both sites were around 6 acres in size.
- Jericho’s walls were shorter and thinner, but, for their time, we can imagine they were as intimidating as Fort Henry’s.
- Both were strongholds—but Jericho was also a residential city brimming with homes, markets, and daily life.

Feature	Fort Henry	Ancient Jericho
Wall Height	~10 meters (33 feet)	6–9 meters (20–30 feet)
Wall Thickness	Up to 3.7 meters (12 feet) on the north side	~1.5–2 meters (5–6.5 feet)
Wall Material	Limestone & masonry	Mud bricks on a stone base
Enclosed Area	~6 acres	6–9 acres
Purpose	Military fortress for defense	City protection against invaders & floods

We know that Rahab’s home was built into the walls, a strategic location for those involved in trade or lodging. Rahab is described as a prostitute, though some believe that she may also have run an inn or tavern. While we don’t know the full story behind her life choices, we know that God saw beyond her past and used her in His mission. She’s not the heroine we expect—but that’s the beauty of God’s grace.

Rahab was living on the edge—both literally and socially! This meant she was well-positioned to be in the know. Jericho was located near the Jordan River and was a key stop for merchants. People were constantly coming and going from the city, and this meant that news of events, rumours, and military movements travelled along too.

Through this steady flow of people and information, Rahab knew of the God of Israel and was aware of the growing fear in Jericho concerning Him. ***Then Joshua ... sent two men secretly ... as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So***

they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. – Joshua 2:1

With mounting fear in the city, ***“2 The king of Jericho was told, ‘Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.’ 3 Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, ‘Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land.’ 4 But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, ‘True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from.***

Hiding these men was a dangerous move. If they had been discovered in hiding, Rahab would have surely been killed. This act alone reveals her growing faith and belief in the power of the God of Israel.

After the King’s men leave to pursue the spies, Rahab takes the opportunity to confirm her knowledge of Israel’s God. During their roof-top conversation, she reveals that she is aware of their God’s mighty acts. She had heard about how He parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to escape Egypt and how they defeated two mighty kings.

As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. – Joshua 2:11

Rahab’s words and retelling of these miraculous events didn’t just reflect what she had heard—they revealed her growing faith. She acknowledged that the God of Israel was no ordinary deity, but one whose power could change the course of history.

Rahab didn’t need to see the miracles for herself—she believed based on what she

had heard. With a growing trust in Israel’s God, Rahab asked the spies to spare her and her family when the Israelites would conquer Jericho.

12 Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith 13 that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death.” - Joshua 2:12-13

With her newly formed faith, Rahab is more than willing to help, but she desires safety for her family. The spies agreed, but she must keep her word and tie a scarlet cord in her window as a sign.

The men said to her, ‘Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land.’ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. – Joshua 2:14-15

Many have drawn parallels between this scarlet cloth and the blood of the lamb at Passover, foreshadowing Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. During the first Passover (Exodus 12), the Israelites were instructed to sacrifice a spotless lamb and with its blood, mark their doorposts. That night, as the final plague took lives of the firstborn sons of Egypt, the Israelite homes marked by blood were “passed over,” sparing those inside. It was an act of mercy—and it became the defining moment of Israel’s deliverance from slavery.

In Rahab’s story, the scarlet cord hanging from her window can be seen echoing that same symbol of salvation. Just as the blood of the lamb protected the Israelites, the

scarlet cord marked Rahab’s home as a place of refuge. In both stories, salvation wasn’t granted through status or good deeds, but by *trusting* in God’s promise, represented by a sign.

We can see now that both the blood on the doorposts and the scarlet cord point forward to Jesus—the Lamb of God—whose blood was shed to save us from sin and death. What began in Egypt and reappeared in Jericho was fulfilled at the cross. It’s all part of one continuous redemption story. Only God can write a story like this.

But, back to Jericho! With the pact between Rahab and the spies, the Israelites would recognize the sign in the window and spare Rahab’s household. That simple act became the key to her family’s survival. Rahab’s faith moved her to action. She wasted no time as she lowered the spies through a window and advised them to hide in the nearby hills for three days until it was safe.

Her actions seem bold and courageous! For the first time, she was trusting that God was guiding not only the Israelites—but her, as well. It sounds exciting, but it couldn’t have been easy. Rahab was turning away from her home and her people. Even though her actions may have been seen as treason by her people, Rahab was choosing a higher allegiance—to the true and living God.

The spies made their way back to the Israelite camp and reported everything to Joshua, including Rahab’s brave act. They shared how fear had already gripped the people of Jericho. ***“Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before us...” – Joshua 2:24***

Encouraged by the report, Joshua led the Israelites by following God’s instructions. They marched around Jericho for seven

days. On the seventh day, after circling the city seven times, the priests blew their trumpets, and the people shouted. Then the once-imposing walls crumbled.

Can you imagine standing with Rahab, inside that crumbling city? Dust in the air. Shouting in the distance. The ground trembling. Everyone is terrified! The walls, that were once considered impenetrable, were crashing down around her. But Rahab... she waits. She stands in the place marked by the scarlet cord. She’s not running. She’s trusting. She has faith.

This wasn’t easy faith. It was brave, vulnerable, and lonely faith. It was a faith that required her to risk everything before she saw any personal proof that God would come through for her. We sometimes assume that great faith means we won’t be afraid. But faith often walks hand-in-hand with fear. **Faith means choosing to believe.**

Rahab must have felt every emotion—anxiety, doubt, apprehension. But she stayed put, steadfast in faith and trusting the promise. Rahab’s faith didn’t silence her fear, rather it gave her the courage to overcome it!

Then the walls crumbled, but one section remained—Rahab’s home. Marked by the promise of the scarlet cord, this place stood firm. The spies had kept their word. Rahab and her *entire* family were saved.

“But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family has lived in Israel ever since...” – Joshua 6:25

Some would have judged her harshly—as a prostitute and a traitor. But God didn’t see her that way, and neither should we. Rahab was born into the Canaanite culture, a society steeped in idolatry and lacking